

Message Text

SECRET

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45

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 NEAE-00 SS-15 SSO-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 INRE-00

MC-02 DRC-01 /062 W

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O 071408Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7847

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T KUWAIT 3682

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS KU

SUBJ: MILITARY SALES TO KUWAIT

REF: A: KUWAIT 3676

B: STATE 195018

C: KUWAIT 3587

1. I HAD PRIVATE MEETING WITH MINDEF SHAIKH SAAD
FOLLOWING CINCUSNAVEUR'S AND MY COURTESY CALL ON HIM
OCTOBER 6 (REF A). WE DISCUSSED FOLLOWING SUBJECTS:

A. SHAIKH SAAD SAID THAT, AS HE HAD PROMISED ME, HE WISHED
TELL ME IN GREAT CONFIDENCE THAT GOK HAD DECIDED
PURCHASE FRENCH MIRAGE F-1. HE QUICKLY ADDED THAT KUWAIT
ALSO INTENSIVELY STUDYING F-5 AND A-7 AIRCRAFT. IMPLICA-
TION WAS THAT GOK WILL ALSO BUY EITHER OR BOTH OF THESE
AIRCRAFT IN ADDITION RPT ADDITION F-1.1,

B. RADAR (REF B). I TOLD MINDEF THAT BEFORE RADAR TEAM
CAME, WE WOULD LIKE KNOW WHETHER GOK HAD DECIDED ON
TPS 32 OR 43. IN ANSWER HIS QUESTION I SAID OUR MILITARY
TEAM HAD RECOMMENDED TPS 32. SHAIKH SAAD SAID HE WOULD
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CHECK WITH HIS RADAR PEOPLE AND LET ME KNOW IN NEXT

SEVERAL DAYS.

C. IMPROVED HAWK (REF C). MINDEF AGREEABLE TO IHAWK
TEAM VISIT ON OR ABOUT OCTOBER 17 RPT 17.

2. RE PARA 1A ABOVE. OF COURSE, CANNOT BE SURE, BUT
BELIEVE IT ENTIRELY POSSIBLE GOK PURCHASING F-1S WITH
INTENTION OF PASSING THEM ON IN DUE COURSE TO EGYPT
(AND SYRIA?), OR AT LEAST TO PROVIDE TRAINING FOR EGYPTIAN
(SYRIAN) PILOTS. GOK WELL AWARE OF US RESTRICTIONS
AGAINST DISPOSITION OF US MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO THIRD
PARTIES, AND THEREFORE GOK PURCHASE OF US AIRCRAFT WOULD
BE FOR KUWAIT USE ONLY RPT ONLY. I DON'T KNOW HOW
STRONGLY DEPT/DOD MAY FEEL ABOUT TRYING TO PREVENT
KUWAITIS FROM BUYING F-1S FOR ANY REASON -- OR INDEED
WHETHER ANYTHING WE OFFERED WOULD DISSUADE THEM FROM
PURCHASING F-1. WE MIGHT CONCEIVABLY TALK GOK OUT OF
F-1S IF WE COULD OFFER SOMETHING PARTICULARLY ATTRACTIVE,
SUCH AS, FOR EXAMPLE, 30 F-5S FOR DELIVERY IN 12-18 MONTHS
ON CONDITION KUWAITIS DROP F-1. THIS IS NOT A RECOMMENDATION,

JUST A THOUGHT.
STOLTZFUS

SECRET

NNN

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